

Drums on the Lake: Joe Labarbera and Dom Moio

Lakeshore Music features two of the best drummers in the West performing compositions of great composers of contemporary jazz music to open the new year.

The great Joe Labarbera plays the music of Bill Evans, and Valley legend Dom Moio is on the music of yet another Valley legend, Mike Kocour.

Labarbera is best known for his recordings and live performances with the trio of pianist Bill Evans in the final years of Evans's career. Previously he had worked in the quartet of Chuck Mangione and Joe Farrell.

Regarded by his peers as a musical drummer and a supportive accompanist, Labarbera has enjoyed a long and varied career in music that has taken him all over the world with some of the finest names in jazz. Perhaps jazz great Bill Evans summed it up best when he said that "Joe is very dedicated to playing quality music and he's willing to make the concessions of dues toward that end. He's a top soloist and he does the right thing at the right time."

Since 1993, Labarbera has been on the faculty of California Institute for the Arts in Valencia, California. He is also a visiting artist at Nevada-Las Vegas and a faculty member of the Bud Shank Jazz Workshop. He served on the National Endowment for the Arts council in Washington, D.C., and has been a guest at many other colleges as both performer and lecturer.

Moio, Phoenix's No. 1 A-List drummer, began playing in the fifth grade and credits his first teacher, Dick Demers, for starting him on his way as both a player and a teacher.

With a deep background in percussion excellence on both coasts, Moio has performed on more than 65 jazz CDs, alongside artists Carl Fontana, Conte Condoli, Shorty Rogers, Greg Hopkins and Buddy Childers, among others.

In New York, Moio studied with studio master Bernard Purdie. In Boston, he studied with jazz great Alan Dawson, to whom Moio dedicated his first book, "Be Bop Phrasing for Drums." Before leaving the East Coast, Moio played alongside jazz greats Don Doane, Clark Terry, Herb Pomeroy and Dave McKenna.

Moio headed for Reno, Nevada, along with his guitar-playing brother, Bill, in the late 1970s, where they worked the casino circuit. Dom became the house drummer for the MGM Grand and "Hello Hollywood Hello Show." He made his mark with show gigs that included Joan Rivers, Tony Orlando, Shirley Jones and Debbie Reynolds. He also kept busy with West Coast jazz players Don Menza, Red Holloway, Herb Ellis, Joe Diorio and Ahmad Jamal.

After studying with Cuban master Walfredo Reyes Sr., in the 1980s in Reno, Moio became active in the Latin percussion world, with his book "Latin Percussion for Gringos" and his band Cinco De Moio.

In the late 1980s Moio made his way to the Valley, where he complements his heavy gig schedule with teaching, including two decades on Arizona State University's jazz faculty and at Mesa Community College.

In 2008, Moio hooked up with his longtime hero, Steve Gadd, and did two book projects, "Deep Grooves II" and "Just Duet," which includes Labarbera.

For more information, please go to:

http://www.jazzcompass.com/joe_bio.html

<http://www.dommoio.com/>

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